

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MALONEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

OUR APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS IS BROKEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, today, the House Republican leadership is clearing up a mess they made three weeks ago.

On November 20, 2004, House Republicans sent to the floor another unwieldy omnibus spending bill, 2 months late and billions of dollars short for America's education, health care and homeland security needs. It was not until the last moment that we discovered that Republicans had slipped in a hidden provision that would have let Congress read the tax returns of any individual American taxpayer and reveal the contents to the public, with no penalties for committing such a flagrant violation of privacy.

Republicans quickly and vocally distanced themselves from this provision, and I have no doubt that my Republican colleagues were as ashamed as I was that this provision almost became law. But where the Republican leadership continues to fail is by claiming this is an isolated mistake. The ugly truth is that it is a symptom of a legislative process that is broken.

In a democracy, the legislative process relies on free and open exchange of ideas. After the final rollcall, there are winners and there are losers, but the system works because all sides know that the issues were debated openly, and the results were reached fairly.

The process Congress has used to fund our government for the past 3 years falls short of this ideal. In fact, it does not even come close. A few Republican leaders work day and night, behind closed doors, to prepare a document thousands of pages long. Then, the report is filed in the middle of the night, and Members are asked to vote on it the following morning. The people's elected representatives are forced to cast votes on a bill that funds half of the Federal Government, yet few people have actually read it.

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The result is inevitable: bad law. Sometimes it is dramatically bad, like the sneak-and-peek tax provision in this year's bill. But more often it is boringly bad: billions wasted on the wrong priorities, monies that could go to education, health care, or Homeland Security instead going to someone's pet boondoggle. But just because it is boring does not make it any better.

Mr. Speaker, we owe the American taxpayer better accountability of the

money they send to us. As the President is fond of saying, it is not our money. It belongs to the taxpayers. And the taxpayers are right to demand better government policy.

I urge the Speaker to uphold the House's own rules on conference reports. Give us a chance to read bills before we have to vote on them, and give the American people a chance to have a free and open debate on how their taxpayer dollars are spent.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ABERCROMBIE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of medical reasons.

Mr. BACA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness.

Mr. KIND (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of weather and travel delays.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. BOEHLERT (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. WOLF (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of knee surgery.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KIND, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STUPAK, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MALONEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATSON, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. KING of Iowa) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. WHITFIELD, for 5 minutes, today and December 7.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and December 7, 8, 9, and 10.

Mr. KING of Iowa, for 5 minutes, today.

HOUSE BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates

he had approved and signed bills and joint resolutions of the House of the following titles:

September 24, 2004:

H.R. 361. An Act to designate certain conduct by sports agents relating to the signing of contracts with student athletes as unfair and deceptive acts or practices to be regulated by the Federal Trade Commission.

H.R. 3908. An Act to provide for the conveyance of the real property located at 1081 West Main Street, in Ravenna, Ohio.

H.R. 5008. An Act to provide an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

September 30, 2004:

H.R. 5149. An Act to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program through March 31, 2005, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5183. An Act to provide an extension of highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

H.J. Res. 107. Joint Resolution making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2005, and for other purposes.

October 4, 2004:

H.R. 1308. An Act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for working families, and for other purposes.

October 5, 2004:

H.R. 265. An Act to provide for an adjustment of the boundaries of Mount Rainier National Park, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1521. An Act to provide for additional lands to be included within the boundary of the Johnstown Flood National Memorial in the State of Pennsylvania, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1616. An Act to authorize the exchange of certain lands within the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site for lands owned by the City of Atlanta, Georgia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1648. An Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain water distribution systems of the Cachuma Project, California, to the Carpinteria Valley Water District and the Montecito Water District.

H.R. 1658. An Act to amend the Railroad Right-of-Way Conveyance Validation Act to validate additional conveyances of certain lands in the State of California that form part of the right-of-way granted by the United States to facilitate the construction of the transcontinental railway, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1732. An Act to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Williamson County, Texas, Water Recycling and Reuse Project, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2696. An Act to establish Institutes to demonstrate and promote the use of adaptive ecosystem management to reduce the risk of wildfires, and restore the health of fire-adapted forest and woodland ecosystems of the interior West.

H.R. 3209. An Act to amend the Reclamation Project Authorization Act of 1972 to clarify the acreage for which the North Loup division is authorized to provide irrigation water under the Missouri River Basin project.

H.R. 3249. An Act to extend the term of the Forest Counties Payments Committee.

H.R. 3389. An Act to amend the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 to permit Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards to be made to nonprofit organizations.

H.R. 3768. An Act to expand the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, Florida.

October 6, 2004:

H.R. 4654. An Act to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes.

October 13, 2004:

H.R. 4837. An Act making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

October 16, 2004:

H.R. 982. An Act to clarify the tax treatment of bonds and other obligations issued by the Government of American Samoa.

H.R. 2408. An Act to amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to reauthorize volunteer programs and community partnerships for national wildlife refuges and for other purposes.

H.R. 2771. An Act to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reauthorize the New York City Watershed Protection Program.

H.R. 4115. An Act to amend the Act of November 2, 1966 (80 Stat. 1112), to allow binding arbitration clauses to be included in all contracts affecting the land within the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Reservation.

H.R. 4259. An Act to amend title 31, United States Code, to improve the financial accountability requirements applicable to the Department of Homeland Security, to establish requirements for the Future Years Homeland Security Program of the Department, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5105. An Act to authorize the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to carry out construction and related activities in support of the collaborative Very Energetic Radiation Imaging Telescope Array System (VERITAS) project on Kitt Peak near Tucson, Arizona.

October 18, 2004:

H.R. 4011. An Act to promote human rights and freedom in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4567. An Act making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4850. An Act making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

October 20, 2004:

H.R. 854. An Act to provide for the promotion of democracy, human rights, and rule of law in the Republic of Belarus and for the consolidation and strengthening of Belarus sovereignty and independence.

October 21, 2004:

H.R. 5122. An Act to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to permit members of the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance to serve for 2 terms.

October 22, 2004:

H.R. 4520. An Act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove impediments in such Code and make our manufacturing, service, and high-technology businesses and workers more competitive and productive both at home and abroad.

October 25, 2004:

H.R. 1533. An Act to amend the securities laws to permit church pension plans to be invested in collective trusts.

H.R. 2608. An Act to reauthorize the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2714. An Act to reauthorize the State Justice Institute.

H.R. 2828. An Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to implement water supply technology and infrastructure pro-

grams aimed at increasing and diversifying domestic water resources.

H.R. 3858. An Act to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the supply of pancreatic islet cells for research, and to provide for better coordination of Federal efforts and information on islet cell transplantation.

H.R. 4175. An Act to increase, effective as of December 1, 2004, the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4278. An Act to amend the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 to support programs of grants to States to address the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4555. An Act to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend provisions relating to mammography quality standards.

H.R. 5185. An Act to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

October 28, 2004:

H.R. 4200. An Act to authorize appropriations for the fiscal year 2005 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

October 30, 2004:

H.R. 712. An Act for the relief of Richi James Lesley.

H.R. 867. An Act for the relief of Durreshahwar Durreshahwar, Nida Hasan, Asna Hasan, Anum Hasan, and Iqra Hasan.

H.R. 2010. An Act to protect the voting rights of members of the Armed Services in elections for the Delegate representing American Samoa in the United States House of Representatives, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2023. An Act to give a preference regarding States that require schools to allow students to self-administer medication to treat that student's asthma or anaphylaxis, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2400. An Act to amend the Organic Act of Guam for the purposes of clarifying the local judicial structure of Guam.

H.R. 2984. An Act to amend the Agricultural Adjustment Act to remove the requirement that processors be members of an agency administering a marketing order applicable to pears.

H.R. 3056. An Act to clarify the boundaries of the John H. Chafee Coast Barrier Resources System Cedar Keys Unit P25 on Otherwise Protected Area P25P.

H.R. 3217. An Act to provide to the conveyance of several small parcels of the National Forest System land in the Apalachicola National Forest, Florida, to resolve boundary discrepancies involving the Mt. Trial Primitive Baptist Church of Wakulla County, Florida, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3391. An Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain lands and facilities of the Provo River Project.

H.R. 3478. An Act to amend title 44, United States Code, to improve the efficiency of operations by the National Archives and Records Administration and to reauthorize the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

H.R. 3479. An Act to provide for the control and eradication of the brown tree snake on the island of Guam and the prevention of the introduction of the brown tree snake to other areas of the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3706. An Act to adjust the boundary of the John Muir National Historic Site, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3797. An Act to authorize improvements in the operations of the government of the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3819. An Act to redesignate Fort Clatsop National Memorial as the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, to include in the park sites in the State of Washington as well as the State of Oregon, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4046. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 555 West 180th Street in New York, New York, as the 'Sergeant Riayan A. Tejeda Post Office'.

H.R. 4066. An Act to provide for the conveyance of certain land to the United States and to revise the boundary of Chickasaw National Recreation Area, Oklahoma, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4306. An Act to amend section 274A of the Immigration and Nationality Act to improve the process for verifying an individual's eligibility for employment.

H.R. 4381. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2811 Springdale Avenue in Springdale, Arkansas, as the 'Harvey and Bernice Jones Post Office Building'.

H.R. 4471. An Act to clarify the loan guarantee authority under title VI of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996.

H.R. 4481. An Act to amend Public Law 86-434 establishing Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in the State of Missouri to expand the boundaries of the park, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4556. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1115 South Clinton Avenue in Dunn, North Carolina, as the 'General William Carey Lee Post Office Building'.

H.R. 4579. An Act to modify the boundary of the Harry S Truman National Historic Site in the State of Missouri, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4618. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10 West Prospect Street in Nanuet, New York, as the 'Anthony I. Lombardi Memorial Post Office Building'.

H.R. 4632. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 19504 Linden Boulevard in St. Albans, New York, as the 'Archie Spigner Post Office Building'.

H.R. 4731. An Act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program.

H.R. 4827. An Act to amend the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area and Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Act of 2000 to rename the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area as the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area.

H.R. 4917. An Act to amend title 5, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Administrative Conference of the United States for fiscal years 2005, 2006, and 2007, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5027. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 411 Midway Avenue in Mascotte, Florida, as the 'Specialist Eric Ramirez Post Office'.

H.R. 5039. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at United States Route 1 in Ridgeway, North Carolina, as the 'Eva Holtzman Post Office'.

H.R. 5051. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1001 Williams Street in Ignacio, Colorado, as the 'Leonard C. Burch Post Office Building'.

H.R. 5107. An Act to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA samples collected from crime scenes and convicted offenders, to improve and expand the DNA testing capacity of Federal,

State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new DNA testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of DNA evidence, to provide post-conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5131. An Act to provide assistance to Special Olympics to support expansion of Special Olympics and development of education programs and a Healthy Athletes Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5133. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11110 Sunset Hills Road in Reston, Virginia, as the "Murtha Pennino Post Office Building".

H.R. 5147. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23055 Sherman Way in West Hills, California, as the "Evan Asa Ashcraft Post Office Building".

H.R. 5186. An Act to reduce certain special allowance payments and provide additional teacher loan forgiveness on Federal student loans.

H.R. 5294. An Act to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 57. Joint Resolution expressing the sense of the Congress in recognition of the contributions of the seven Columbia astronauts by supporting the establishment of a Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center.

November 21, 2004:

H.J. Res. 114. Joint Resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2005, and for other purposes.

SENATE BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates he had approved and signed bills and joint resolutions of the Senate of the following titles:

September 24, 2004:

S. 1576. An Act to revise the boundary of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, and for other purposes.

October 5, 2004:

S.J. Res. 41. Joint Resolution commemorating the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian.

October 13, 2004:

S. 1778. An Act to authorize a land conveyance between the United States and the City of Craig, Alaska, and for other purposes.

October 16, 2004:

S. 2292. An Act to require a report on acts of anti-Semitism around the world.

October 18, 2004:

S. 551. An Act to provide for the implementation of air quality programs developed in accordance with an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the State of Colorado concerning Air Quality Control on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, and for other Purposes.

S. 1421. An Act to authorize the subdivision and dedication of restricted land owned by Alaska Natives.

S. 1537. An Act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to the New Hope Cemetery Association certain land in the State of Arkansas for use as a cemetery.

S. 1663. An Act to replace certain Coastal Barrier Resources System maps.

S. 1687. An Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the pres-

ervation and interpretation of historic sites of the Manhattan Protect for potential inclusion in the National Park System.

S. 1814. An Act to transfer federal lands between the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior.

S. 2052. An Act to amend the National Trails System Act to designate El Camino Real de los Tejas as a National Historic Trail.

S. 2180. An Act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to exchange certain lands in the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests in the State of Colorado.

S. 2319. An Act to authorize and facilitate hydroelectric power licensing of the Tapoco Project.

S. 2363. An Act to revise and extend the Boys and Girls Clubs of American.

S. 2508. An Act to redesignate the Ridges Basin Reservoir, Colorado, as Lake Nighthorse.

October 20, 2004:

S. 2895. An Act to authorize the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri, to be illuminated by pink lights in honor of breast cancer awareness month.

October 21, 2004:

S. 33. An Act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange all or part of certain administrative sites and other land in the Ozark-St. Francis and Ouachita National Forests and to use funds derived from the sale or exchange to acquire, construct, or improve administrative sites.

S. 1791. An Act to amend the Lease Lot Conveyance Act of 2002 to provide that the amounts received by the United States under that Act shall be deposited in the reclamation fund, and for other purposes.

S. 2178. An Act to make technical corrections to laws relating to certain units of the National Park System and to National Park programs.

S. 2415. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4141 Postmark Drive, Anchorage, Alaska, as the "Robert J. Opinsky Post Office Building".

S. 2511. An Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study of a Chimayo water supply system, to provide for the planning, design, and construction of a water supply, reclamation, and filtration facility for Espanola, New Mexico, and for other purposes.

S. 2634. An Act to amend the Public Health Service Act to support the planning, implementation, and evaluation of organized activities involving statewide youth suicide early intervention and prevention strategies, to authorize grants to institutions of higher education to reduce student mental and behavioral health problems, and for other purposes.

S. 2742. An Act to extend certain authority of the Supreme Court Police, modify the venue of prosecutions relating to the Supreme Court building and grounds, and authorize the acceptance of gifts to the United States Supreme Court.

October 22, 2004:

S. 2195. An Act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to clarify the definition of anabolic steroids and to provide for research and education activities relating to steroids and steroid precursors.

October 25, 2004:

S. 524. An Act to expand the boundaries of the Fort Donelson National Battlefield to authorize the acquisition and interpretation of lands associated with the campaign that resulted in the capture of the Fort in 1862, and for other purposes.

S. 1368. An Act to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. (posthumously) and his widow

Coretta Scott King in recognition of their contributions to the Nation on behalf of the civil rights movement.

S. 2864. An Act to extend for eighteen months the period for which chapter 12 of title 11, United States Code, is reenacted.

S. 2883. An Act to amend the International Child Abduction Remedies Act to limit the tort liability of private entities or organizations that carry out responsibilities of United States Central Authority under that Act.

S. 2896. An Act to modify and extend certain privatization requirements of the Communications Satellite Act of 1962.

October 27, 2004:

S. 1134. An Act to reauthorize and improve the programs authorized by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965.

S. 1721. An Act to amend the Indian Land Consolidation Act to improve provisions relating to probate of trust and restricted land, and for other purposes.

October 30, 2004:

S. 129. An Act to provide for reform relating to Federal employment, and for other purposes.

S. 144. An Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program to provide assistance to eligible weed management entities to control or eradicate noxious weeds on public and private land.

S. 643. An Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation with the University of New Mexico, to construct and occupy a portion of the Hibben Center for Archaeological Research at the University of New Mexico, and for other purposes.

S. 1194. An Act to foster local collaborations which will ensure that resources are effectively and efficiently used within the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

November 19, 2004:

S. 2986. An Act to amend title 31 of the United States Code to increase the public debt limit.

ENROLLED BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a joint resolution of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. WOLF, on Monday, November 29, 2004.

H.J. Res. 115. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2005, and for other purposes.

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, also reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 4012. An act to amend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999 to reauthorize for 2 additional years the public school and private school tuition assistance programs established under the Act.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reported that on November 20, 2004 he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.J. Res. 114. Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2005, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1113. To authorize an exchange of land at Fort Frederica National Monument, and for other purposes.